

AMENDED CLAIMS FOR OZ 49521

Q1  
14. (amended) A precatalyst as claimed in claim 13 which comprises from 30 to 100% by weight of [a] the multimetal oxide [as claimed in claim 1], based on the total weight of the layer or layers applied in the form of a shell or shells.

Q2  
16. (amended) A precatalyst as claimed in claim 13 whose shell-like layer comprises from 30 to 100% by weight, based on the total weight of this layer, of [a] the multimetal oxide [as claimed in claim 2] and wherein the multimetal oxide has a fibrous crystal morphology having a mean ratio of fiber diameter to fiber length of less than 0.6.

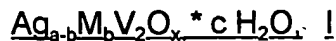
17. (amended) A precatalyst as claimed in claim 13 whose shell-like layer comprises from 30 to 100% by weight of [a] the multimetal oxide [as claimed in claim 3] and wherein the multimetal oxide has a specific surface area determined by the BET method of from 3 to 250 m<sup>2</sup>/g.

18. (amended) A precatalyst as claimed in claim 13, whose shell-like layer comprises from 30 to 100% by weight, based on the total weight of this layer, of [a] the multimetal oxide [as claimed in claim 6] and wherein the multimetal oxide has the formula



where a is from 0.6 to 0.9 and c is from 0 to 5.

Q3  
20. (amended) A coated catalyst as claimed in claim 19 which has been produced using a multimetal oxide [as claimed in claim 1] of the formula I



where M is a metal selected from the group consisting of Li, Na, K, Rb,

Cs, Tl, Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba, Cu, Zn, Cd, Pb, Cr, Au, Al, Fe, Co, Ni and/or Mo,

a is from 0.3 to 1.9 and

b is from 0 to 0.5, with the proviso that the difference (a-b) .0.1 and

c is from 0 to 20 and

x is a number determined by the valence and amount of elements different from oxygen in the formula I,

which has a crystal structure giving an X-ray powder diffraction pattern which displays reflections at the lattice spacings d of  $15.23 + 0.6$ ,  $12.16 + 0.4$ ,  $10.68 + 0.3$ ,  $3.41 + 0.04$ ,  $3.09 + 0.04$ ,  $3.02 + 0.04$ ,  $2.36 + 0.04$  and  $1.80 + 0.04 \text{ \AA}$ .

21. (amended) A coated catalyst as claimed in claim 19 which has been produced from a precatalyst [as claimed in claim 13] comprising an inert, nonporous support material and one or more layers applied thereto in the form of a shell or shells, wherein this/these shell-like layer or layers comprises/comprise a multimetal oxide of the formula I



where M is a metal selected from the group consisting of Li, Na, K, Rb, Cs, Tl, Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba, Cu, Zn, Cd, Pb, Cr, Au, Al, Fe, Co, Ni and/or Mo,

a is from 0.3 to 1.9 and

b is from 0 to 0.5, with the proviso that the difference (a-b) .0.1 and

c is from 0 to 20 and

x is a number determined by the valence and amount of elements different

from oxygen in the formula I.

which has a crystal structure giving an X-ray powder diffraction pattern which displays reflections at the lattice spacings  $d$  of  $15.23 \pm 0.6$ ,  $12.16 \pm 0.4$ ,  $10.68 \pm 0.3$ ,  $3.41 \pm 0.04$ ,  $3.09 \pm 0.04$ ,  $3.02 \pm 0.04$ ,  $2.36 \pm 0.04$  and  $1.80 \pm 0.04$  Å.

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